

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 AF-08 ISO-00 ACDA-07 EURE-00 SS-15 SSO-00

NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-07 INRE-00 PRS-01 SAJ-01

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O R 081428Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0269

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11495

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GW US OVIP (SCHMIDT, HELMUT)

SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: (A) BONN 11444; (B) BONN 11313

SUMMARY. IN MY DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL ON JULY 7, HE MENTIONED SEVERAL ITEMS WHICH HE KNEW WERE ON CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S MIND AND WHICH THE CHANCELLOR MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS IN WASHINGTON. THESE ITEMS ARE RAW MATERIALS, AFRICA, ECONOMIC LEVERAGE IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS, MBFR AND THE US-FRG MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. RAW MATERIALS. VAN WELL SAID THE CHANCELLOR IS VERY INTERESTED IN A SOLUTION OF CURRENT FRENCH-GERMAN DIFFERENCES REGARDING THE COMMODITY QUESTION. THE CHANCELLOR BELIEVES A RESOLUTION MUST BE FOUND QUICKLY AND BOTH BONN AND PARIS AGREE THAT RESOLUTION SHOULD NOT BE LEFT FOR THE POST-NAIROBI FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS. VAN WELL AGREED WHEN I COMMENTED THAT THE US AND GERMAN POSITIONS  
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ON RAW MATERIALS WERE NOT FAR APART.

2. AFRICA. VAN WELL SAID THE CHANCELLOR IS THINKING OF WAYS IN WHICH THE STRONG FRG ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH AFRICA CAN BE USED AS A BASIS FOR EFFORTS TO RESOLVE SERIOUS AFRICAN ISSUES. THE FRENCH HAVE NOW THROWN OUT THE IDEA OF AN AFRICAN ASSISTANCE FUND. I SAID THAT THE SECRETARY HAD REFERRED TO THIS IN GENERAL TERMS (IN HIS LONDON SPEECH). VAN WELL SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THIS AND THE CHANCELLOR WILL BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING IN DETAIL THE US VIEW.

3. ECONOMIC LEVERAGE IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS. VAN WELL SAID THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD BEEN SEIZED FOR SOME TIME WITH THE IDEA OF USING THE WARSAW PACT'S INDEBTEDNESS TO THE WEST AS LEVERAGE FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. SCHMIDT THINKS THIS INDEBTEDNESS IS MUCH GREATER THAN THE \$30 BILLION FIGURE DISCUSSED AT THE FRG WARSAW PACT CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE LAST WEEK AT GYMNIICH (REF A). AND BEYOND THE PRESENT INDEBTEDNESS, THE SOVIETS AND EAST EUROPEANS ARE NOW ASKING FOR MORE CREDITS. THIS IS TAKING ON A POLITICAL DIMENSION AND IT IS NO LONGER A MATTER OF JUST BUSINESS AS USUAL SEPARATED FROM POLITICS. VAN WELL SAID THE CHANCELLOR WILL RAISE THIS BECAUSE HE IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT INCLUDING EC AND COMECON COUNTRIES MORE IN WORLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS.

4. MBFR. MBFR WAS DISCUSSED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS GENSCHER AND SAUVAGNARGUES AND ADVISERS IN HAMBURG ON JULY 6. VAN WELL SAID THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD AGREED IT WOULD BE A VERY BAD THING IF THE FRENCH FIGURES WERE DEDUCTED AND AT HIS REQUEST GENSCHER PUT FORTH THE GERMAN REASONING TO SAUVAGNARGUES. THE MATTER, HOWEVER, WAS LEFT UNRESOLVED. VAN WELL SAID THE FRENCH INDICATED THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD BE RESOLVED AMICABLY AND THEY WOULD BE GETTING IN TOUCH AGAIN WITH VAN WELL IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO. VAN WELL SAID THAT GISCARD IS NOW SEIZED WITH THE SUBJECT.

VAN WELL ALSO THANKED US FOR GETTING THE US POSITION ON THIS MATTER TO HIM IN HAMBURG (REF B). HE  
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SAID IT GENERALLY COINCIDED WITH THE FRG APPROACH.

5. VAN WELL SAID THAT THE US-FRG MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WAS A "VERY PERSONAL SUBJECT" FOR THE CHANCELLOR AND HE BELIEVED THIS BROAD SUBJECT WOULD FIGURE IN THE DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON.

6. VAN WELL SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE BERLIN AS AN

OPERATIONAL POINT WOULD COME UP. HE SAW NO GERMAN  
INITIATIVES VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIETS PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER  
ELECTIONS BUT HE WAS SURE THAT THE BUREAUCRACY WOULD BE  
ASKED FOR IDEAS IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.  
HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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